

NITE-TIMES NEWS

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 1987

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Nite-Times News is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. It is available as a Public Domain feature of the North Shore Sinclair BBS (312)473-9415. If you are not a CATUG member and desire to have a hard-copy mailed to your home, please provide \$6.00 per year to cover the cost of costage. The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to change newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, leave feedback to Sysop Gary at the North Shore Sinclair BBS or write to:

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group Nite-Times News Editor 1885A Yorktown Avenue Great Lakes, Illinois 60088.

Articles that appear in this issue are: The Software Exchange

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THE SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

This is a new monthly feature where you the Timexer may in the programming ideas about on an open forum. You don't have be a programming whiz, just a Timexer with an idea. Once it is posted, the other readers with a little more know-how and

experience can respond. I've found that Timexers have a pretty tight community, and when one expersses a need for help, many others rise to his assistance.

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SAFE DISK UP-DATE (A Review) By Gary Lessenberry

I have been a JLO Disk Interface user for about a year and a half. As many of the Chicago Area Timexers know, this one simple add-on to my TS-2068 has made my computing experience better than I'd ever imagined it could be. My excitement grew recently when I received information that there was a newsletter evolving that is dedicated to TS-2068 disk systems and features the Oliger SDOS! This newsletter is the TS-2068 SAFE DISK UPDATE (1317 Stratford Ave., Panama City, FL 32404). It is published on a quarterly basis by Bill Jones. An annual subscription of \$12.00 will net you all four issues of that year, including issues that were published before your subscription began.

The idea of a disk system newsletter is not a new one. Previously there was the FD-68 User that provided two issues to Aerco FD-68 enthusiasts and T.O.P.s that started with a few issues for the Zebra FFD users. With the current record of disk system newsletters, Mr. Jones has taken on an ambitious task.

The premier issue consisted of 36 pages which had pre-punched holes for easy filing. The newsletter is divided into the following sections: Editorials, Programming, Hardware & Software Articles and Reviews, TS-2068 Computing With SDOS, Catalog, Electrical Data and Technical Information. Each section has different color pages to make it easier for the reader to skim to a desired area of interest.

The content of the newsletter was slightly confusing, but that is not entirely unusual with a new publication. There is (continued on page 2)

SAFE DISK UP-DATE (A Review) continued from page 1

a lot of information that Bill is trying to cover and a premier issue is often entirely written by the editor. It's fair to say that this newsletter does primarily cater to the JLO Disk System. However, the editor has invited the users and manufactures of the other systems (Aerco, Zebra, and Larkin) to use this magazine as a forum for their information as well. This issue included six type-in program listings which you can also order on diskette for \$16.00! This price may seem steep to some. However, when you consider the hours of typing in and debugging involved, you may save money in the long run. The most anticipated portion of this magazine for me was the section entitled TS-2068 Computing with SDDS which is written by John Oliger. I found some very helpfull information in there that I might not have learned otherwise.

Overall, I was pretty impressed with TS-2068 Safe Disk Up-date. The editor has a solid desire to provide quality information to the Timex community and I believe he will. If you own a disk system or plan to get one, I would recommend that you try this one out and let the editor know which disk system you use. He can then use that information to encourage the manufactures and dealers to use this newsletter as a forum to reach their users as well.

IT HAPPENED AT THE FEST... By Pete Fischer

*Editor's Note: The following is a light hearted dramanization of what could've, but to the best of our knowledge never did happen at a TS Computerfest.

Two men approach each other during a lull in activity. They read each other's nametag. Both are pleasantly surprised.

BDB: "Well, well, well, ...if it isn't Dale! At long last I finally get to meet the 'Master Programmer' himself! I can hardly believe it."

DALE: "Bob! Glad to meet you! Wow, I was wondering if you'd show up. That last hardware design in SYNCWARE was absolutely INSPIRED! How do you come up with those?"

BGB: "Wait, let me get a pen and paper. I MUST have your autograph. The guys back at the User Group will never believe me!"

DALE: "Oh, knock it off will ya! This is starting to get embarassing."

* BOB: "OK, but look. You've GOT to tell me how you wrote the 2400 B.P.S. terminal program for the 1000!"

DALE: "Only if you explain how you managed to design the SCS" Interface for the QL."

608: "You got a DEAL!"

(The two discuss technical details for 3 or 4 hours...)

DALE: (Shaking his head slowly in disbelief) "Astonishing,... simply astonishing."

BOB: "Look, I'm starved, let's grab a burger or something."

DALE: "Sounds good." (They head out the door...) "But you know something Bob. You're not going to believe this, but I heard the most ABSURD rumor about you."

BOB: "Oh really, what could that be?" (Interested again...)

DALE: "Well I probably shouldn't even TELL you, it's so RIDICULOUS!"

BOB: "Well you pretty much HAVE to now, I'm dying of curiosity."

DALE: "OK, well, some PERSON actually had the nerve to suggest that you bought a Jingle-Foopen Disk Drive Interface! Isn't that the craziest thing you ever heard! Everybody knows that interface is nothing but JUNK! Of course, I told them right away they must be mistaken. But you know how rumors are."

(Bob is looking confused, but says nothing...)

DALE: "And the other bomb is that the same person told me you had a FINKELBEAN Spectrum Emulator! Now if that dosen't take the cake, I don't know what does!"

BOB: (Stands in silence for a moment, and finally speaks...)
"But...but I DO own Both the Jingle-Foopen AND the Finklebean!"

(Now it is Dale's face which turns to doubt. He says nothing.)

BOB: "I happen to find them EXCEPTIONAL in every way! But I might mention ... that I heard something even MORE amazing about YOU. I heard you bought a GLUTEN-LOCKEN printer Interface and the BATTERIES-NOT-NECESSARY word processor!"

(A full minute passes as each man just stares at the other in total shock)

DALE: I can't believe ANYONE would be foolish enough to buy that FINKELBEAN!", he says raising his voice...
(continued on page 3)

IT HAPPENED AT THE FEST...

continued from page 2

BOB: (Shaking his head as if trying to dispell a bad dream)

you know that word processor can't even do FOOTNOTES!!??"

DALE: "And to think I was under the impression you actually KNEW SOMETHING about hardware....What a JOKE!"

BOB: "Look, any BOZO who uses THAT word processor can't POSSIBLY call himself a PROGRAMMER. I've seen better programs on CEREAL BOXES!"

DALE: "Look, even my 10 year old knows better than to waste time on a Jingle Foopen Disk Drive!"

808: "I've heard enough. Why I even bother talking with a NERD like you is hard to imagine."

DALE: "Yeah, well the feeling's mutual, AIR-HEAD!"

(They both walk away, each safely enclosed in his own personal air of self-righteous disgust)

CURTAIN

NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

The Nite-Times Classified Ads are a service provided to all of our readers. Please submit your ads prior to the 15th of each month. They may be mailed to the Nite-Times News or sent to Sysop Gary via the Feedback Message Base on the North Shore Sinclair BBS (312) 473-9415.

* * * * * * FOR SALE

Library of TS-1000 and TS-1500 books and software at \$2.00 - \$3.00 per title. For list of titles, contact:

Gary Lessenberry 1885A Yorktown Ave Great Lakes, IL 60088 312/473-9415

* * * * * * * * WANTED

I am looking for a new or used Memotech CPI for my TS-1000. If annody has one that they would like to sell, please write to:

Rod Humphreys 2006 Highway Place Port Moody, B.C., V3H 1N5 Canada

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* * * * * * FOR SALE

AFFORDABLE HI-RES PLOTTING for the TS-2068 and Commodore 1520 four-color printer/plotter! The plotter can be found at Toys-R-Us stores for \$29.95. Iterface hardware (from bareboard to assembled & tested) as well as utility software for screen to plotter praphic transfer, banner making, and word processing are available from: John McMichael

1710 Palmer Drive Laramie, WY 82070

A large SASE gets you more info and a sample plot.

TIMEX TIDBITS

BURT GERMAIN has some Tandon TM-101-4 disk drives for sale at \$30.00 each. These are new, full height, 80 track, quad density, 96-TPI, 5-1/4 inch disk drives which come with a manual. Ed Grey tells me that he has successfully used these drive with the JLO Disk System. Send a check for \$30.00 per drive and \$5.00 UPS shipping to: Burt Germain, 10826 Franklin Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230, telephone (213) 379-0568.

The CATUG received a Z88 brochure from the Las Vegas Timex Sinclair Users Group. Copies of it will be available at future CATUG meetings. The address to write for information about the Z88 is Cambridge Computer, 162 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 telephone (212)425 5830.

Dan Elliott is offering repair services for Timex-Sinclair computers. He advertises a 4-6 week turnaround period with notification by mail if more time is needed. His charge for repair of Timex computers is \$15.00 plus parts cost. According to Joan Keally, after sending her TS-2068 to Timex and another repair shop without success, she sent it to Dan who got it working like new! For more info, write to Dan Elliott, Rt 1, Box 117, Cabool, MO 65689 or call (314) 739-1712.

Brooklyn Closeout Corp (167 Clymer St., Brooklyn, NY 11211) has new TS-2068s available for \$85.00 each or packaged with a TS-2040, two program cartridges, and three program tapes for \$130.00!

There is a rumor that surfaced in the ZX-Appeal newsletter that Timex of Portugal will cease their computer production at the end of this year.

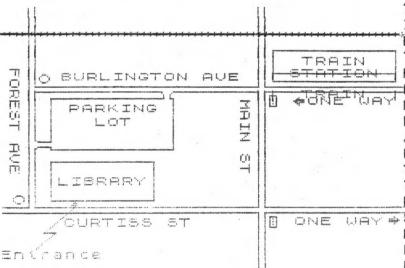
The JLO Safe Disc Operating System has version 2.4 on the streets. This upgrade includes a merge function, an optional no-delay save, a high speed FOR-NEXT routine, NMI SCREEN\$ save, and a system reset. The cost for the upgrade is \$5.00 plus your old EPROM or \$10.00 without it.

If you are planning to attend the Sunstate Timex Sinclair Winterfest, be advised that the dates for it are 4, 5, and 6 March 1988 in Orlando Florida. Both the Nite-Times and Time Designs Magazine had previously reported erroneous dates.

JANUARY C.A.T.U.G. MEETING

The January meeting of the Chicago Arera Timex Users Group will be at the Downers Grove Public Library's Conference Room, from 12:00 to 5:00 on the 16th of January. The library is located at 1050 Curtiss Street in Downers Grove. The CATUG representative for this meeting is Steve Cooper and he can contacted at (312) 968-3553.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH: Take I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) south to I-88 (East West Tollway). Drive west on I-88 and exit at Highland Avenue. Take Highland south about three miles, during which it's name will change to Main Street. You will cross the Burlington-Northern tracks in downtown Downers Grove and turn right (west) at the next street (Burlington). Proceed one block to Forest Ave. At the intersection of Forest and Burlington is a public parking lot. The Library is located one block south of Burlington at the intersection of Curtiss and Forest. Please note that Burlington is a one-way street (westbound) and Curtiss is a one-way street (eastbound).



DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH: Take 1-55 (Stevenson Expway) to the Lemont Rd North exit. Take Lemont Road north about four miles during which it will merge into Main Street. As you go into downtown Downers Grove, you will pass Curtiss Street, and turn left at the next intersection (Burlington), which is the last street before you cross the railroad tracks. Proceed one block west to Forest Ave. At the intersection of Forest and Burlington is a public parking lot. The Library is located one block south of Burlington at the intersection of Curtiss and Forest. Please note that Burlington is a one-way street (westbound) and Curtiss is a one-way street (eastbound).

Pet.

TIMEX/SINCLAIR BBS DIRECTORY (DECEMBER 1987)

BULLETIN BOARD	NUMBER	NOTES	RATES
UCVE TIMEY/CINCLAID DDC	(201) 527-0525	7 4 6 4	10/10
QLCOM BBS	(201) 328-2919	7 M D e ?	16/15
T.S.U.G	(201) 956-7703	8 L D @	15/14
TIME-= <x>=-CHANGE BBS</x>	(213) 329-3922	9 d H 8	17/15
STARTEXT	(214) 877-1041	8 M \$	16/15
FWKU6 MBBS	(214) 540-4183	800	16/15
TIMELINES BBS	(216) 671-6922	8 H D %	15/14
CLEVELAND FREE-NET BBS	(216) 368-3888	7 L e	15/14
THE NORTH POST	(219) 256-5870	7 L % ?	15/12
KINGS MARKET BBS	(303) 665-6091	8 M D @	16/15
CLEVELAND FREE-NET BBS	(312) 459-5721	8 L D e ?	
NUDTO CHUDE CINCLATO DDC	(212) 472-0415	0 1 2 4 8	
SERIAL PORT BBS. TIME-HEX BBS. ISTUG BBS. BILL'S OBSESSION BBS. TIMEXNET BBS. PGHTSUG BBS. PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE EXCHANGE DOWNLOADERS ANONYMOUS.	(313) 286-0145	8 H D	15/13
TIME-HEX BBS	(317) 362-8085	8 M %	15/13
ISTUG BBS	(317) 898-3903	7 H	15/13
BILL'S OBSESSION BBS	(404) 377-2550	8 H D .	16/15
TIMEXNET BBS	(408) 248-8017	7 L e.	16/14
PGHTSUG BBS	(412) 481-9327	8 M D ?	15/14
PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE EXCHANGE	(415) 571-6911	8 M D @	16/14
DOWNLOADERS ANDNYMOUS	(416) 844-2035	8 M D	22/18
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JJ'S FIDO	(505) 522-7081	8 L D	17/10
OWEGO FREE ACADEMY BBS	(607) 754-3420	8 L D	16/15
THE TOXIC DUMP BBS	(609) 890-6347	8 L.	16/15
THE TIMEWARP BBS	(617) 481-0555	7 L D &	16/15
FLEXI BBS	(617) 648-7651	8 L @	16/15
SINC CITY BBS	(617) 986-8449	7 M D A 7	16/15
MAINSTREET DATA RRS	(619) 439-6624	8 \$	16/15
I DONEY BIN BRS	(619) 390-9470	7 D	17/15
FLEXI BBS	(702) 644-6910	8 M D	16/14
TEACHER'S PET RRS	(704) 547-4185	81017	16/15
SINCLAIR AT NIGHT RRS	(718) 627-1293	8 H D T	15/14
MICERIA HI MICHIE DOS	(718) 648-3502	810	15/14
SINCLAIR AT NIGHT BBS	(805) 942-7301	8 M D	17/15
FUTURE ELECTRONICS BBS	(813) 531-4342	7 1	17/15
SUNSTATE T/S BBS			16/14
THE BUS DEPOT BBS	(904) 262-6761	8-1 0	16/15
ALICES RESTAURANT BBS	(9)4) 477-9917	71	16/15
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 MEDIUM USAGE T/S MSG BASE H HIGH USAGE T/S MSG BASE
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 FOLLOWING MINUTE AFTER 11:00 PM AND ON WEEKENDS.

TOM WOODS NVRAM BOARD By Jim Brezina

I ordered the NVRAM board from E. Arthur Brown Co. in March of 1987. I didn't receive it until July 24, 1987. E. Arthur Brown didn't have any in stock at the time I ordered it, and, after 60 days, they started sending me delay notice cards to send back to them and indicate whether I wanted to cancel or wait for delivery. I decided to wait for delivery. If they had sent me one more card, I would have decided to cancel. I presume the delay was because Tom Woods was redesigning the board. I do not know if E. Arthur Brown will continue to carry the board as their latest catalogue does not list it. If you want to get one, you may have to order direct from Tom Woods. The original NVRAM had 4 8K RAMS on it and a bunch of jumpers for selecting chunks of RAM. The redesigned board eliminated the jumpers and replaced the 4 8K RAMS with 1 32K RAM. The board has 2 28-pin-sockets on it for the RAMS. One socket is filled with the supplied 32K RAM. The other socket is for expanding the memory to 64K. The suggestion by Tom is to use the additional RAM as EXROM. This is controlled by the EXROM DOCK switch on the board.

The board is supplied with an instruction book, but, it is written for the original board. A supplementary sheet is enclosed with information for the redesigned board. The book has a component diagram of the original board which bears a isemblance to the new board. The main difference is the elimination of the jumpers and the location of the battery. The battery is located a little to the left and closer to the edge connector than shown. No mention is made in the supplementary sheet of how to remove the board. In the original instruction book there are warnings of where not to place your fingers for removal, and there is reference to the jumpers and to markings on the RAMS which do not appear on the 32K RAM. There is no handle like on the Timex cartridges. I found it necessary to pull it out by the spare RAM socket.

There is various information in the first part of the book such as the 2068 Chunk/Bank memory map and the port usage for the NVRAM. The ports used are 255 and 244. There is a listing of how to enable certain banks through port 244 with the command DUT 244,0 for the HDME Bank or other numbers for various chunks.

There is a program to demonstrate entering a text in the NVRAM and in the HOME RAM. The program first enters the text in the NVRAM and then another text in the HOME RAM. After doing this, the program then goes through a retrieval action. I entered this program into the computer and saved it to tape. I then ran the program and found that it worked. I then switched the WR/PR switch to PR and turned off the computer. After turning the computer back on, I then reloaded the program and entered GD TO 40 (the line that enters text in the HOME RAM).

Entered a different text than in the first running and found

that on retrieval the NVRAM came back with my original entry while the HDME RAM came back with my changed text. This showed me that the board was working. The program, by the way, stores the text as CHR\$ CODE and retrieves it by printing the CHR\$ designated by the CODE.

The next program example is to demonstrate the storage of a BASIC program in the NVRAM. A BASIC program stored in the NVRAM comes up running when the computer is turned on with the NVRAM plugged in. In order to store a BASIC program in the NVRAM, it is necessary to move the program Taddress up to 32768. The orogram to do this is included in the book. It is in machine code which is stored in the computer's printer buffer. Tom has listed the the entire program at line number 9999 and uses READ and DATA system for poking it in. His DATA listing is in three characters for each POKE. This means it contains leading zero's. Although the leading zero's are not needed, they make for easier comparison with his printed listing. After running this program, DO NOT USE NEW, as that will revert the computer back to its original state. To delete the line, just enter the line number and key ENTER. Tom next lists a program to be stored in the NVRAM. The program is basically a random PLOT and DRAW. After entering the last line of the program, Tom tells you to enter another line 9999. This line is approximately the same as the one for raising the PROG address but it has more numbers and is stored in the computer's printer buffer also. This program transfers the BASIC program into the NVRAM. When you run line 9999, switch the WR/PR switch to WR and the program will be stored in the NVRAM. You are then told to enter a number of POKEs from address 32768 to 32775. After the POKEs are entered, the instruction is to type OUT 244,0 and press ENTER. You are to ignore the error report you get. After this is done, you switch the Write Protect Switch to PR. You are then told to switch off the computer and, when it is turned back on, the program comes up running.

There is a little explanation following the program listing as to what you can now do. You can stop the program with the BREAK keys and enter immediate mode commands, but you cannot enter new program lines. You can POKE 23750,0 which will turn off the AROS and turn on the HOME RAM. Now, you can enter another program in the HOME RAM and run it. If you POKE 23750,128 and then type RUN, you turn the AROS-back on and the program stored in the NVRAM starts running again.

There is another program contained in the book which is used to transfer a program and its variables to the NVRAM. This program uses the EXROM bank. This program contains much more machine code. I did not try this one:

The supplementary instruction sheet mentions that the WR/PR switch should be in the PR position, but, the two programs for storing a program on the NVRAM say to have the switch in the WR position. I tried that and boy was I in trouble!!! The computer appeared to have crashed. I could do nothing to get out of the control of the NVRAM while it was plugged in. One of the things (continued on page 6)

TOM WOODS NVRAM BOARD continued from page 5

I found was that the EXROM/DOCK switch had come loose. In fact it eventually fell out. It was not properly soldered. I eventually cleaned the solder out of the mounting holes and resoldered it in place. I tried placing a piece of paper between the battery contact and the battery. After 24 hours, I tried plugging the board in and everything was alright. I don't know if it was necessary to do it for that long. The supplementary sheet said that if you could change the battery in five minutes the memory would be retained in the RAM.

The next thing is what I had bought the NVRAM board for. I wanted to try moving HOT-2 to the NVRAM. I had originally tried it before I tried any of the other things and had no luck with it. I decided that I had to CLEAR 32767 before loading it in to the computer. After loading it in, I switched the WR/PR switch to WR and initialized the transfer routine in the HOT-2. The screen flashed up with an attribute display on the top of the screen and then went back to normal. I switched the WR/PR switch to PR and shut off the computer. Now came the acid test. I turned the computer back on and the HOT-Z came up running. After choosing the printer interface, the listing showed the beginning of the ROM. Entering address 8000H, I found that the HOME RAM was now clear at the addresses formerly occupied by HOT-2. As a further check I entered the address of the UD6 area. The listing now showed the contents of the UD6 area.

I now had to find out if I could load another MC program into the HOME RAM and disassemble it. I decided to try the Tasman screen copy code which I had relocated from the computer's printer buffer to address 63000. The HOT-Z could be exited by keying symbol shift and Q. That seemed to take care of everything without the extra stuff mentioned in the NVRAM instructions. I tried a simple little BASIC program and found that it would work. I then CLEARed 62999 and loaded in the screen copy code. I now had to try getting back to the HOT-Z. I found that the way to do it was to RANDONIZE USR 23842 as listed on the command sheet that came with HOT-Z. Nothing else would do it. I entered address 63000 and had the copy code listed on the screen.

There are some other things I would like to try with the NVRAM, but, I would prefer to have another one available in case anything goes wrong.

C.A.T.U.G. MEMBERSHIPS

To become a member of the CHicago Area Timex User Group, send your name, address, phone number, and computer description with ten dollars to the CATUG treasurer, Paul Beatty, 7634 N. Greenveiw, Chicago, IL 60626. In return, you will gain monthly mailouts of the Nite-Times News, access to the CATUG text and software libraries and participation in group purchases.

TIMEX COMPUTER REPAIR CENTERS

The following list contains sources for the repair of your Timex/Sinclair computers. This is not a recommendation or endorsment of these facilities.

- 1. A+ Computer Response 69-B Island Street, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-1800 QL repairs only!
- Sunset Electronics
 Computer Services Department
 2255 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA 94116
 (415) 665-8330
- 3. Dan Elliott Rt 1, Box 117, Cabool, MD 65689 (314) 739-1712
- Carver Technologies 3832 Watterson Avenue, Cincinati, OH 45227 (513) 271-5575
- 5. Timex Computer Products
 P.O.Box 2740, Little Rock, AR 72203
 (501) 372-1111
 There are conflicting rumors about the current availabilit, of repairs from this source.



CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

(DECEMBER 1, 1987)

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